

February 4, 1975

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I do not oppose this constitutional amendment, but I wonder if we shouldn't, in some way, wait on voting, at least advancing it beyond Select File, until we see what other constitutional amendments there are. The reason I bring this up is that I get a lot of feedback from people that the large number of constitutional amendments that voters have to face each time. I think in a way that when the legislative salary amendment is in there that there's a backlash. It seems people believe we are foisting decisions off on them. Now we see that we have four constitutional amendments so far and I have no idea how many others may come out of the committee. I guess I'm just raising this question. I don't know if Senator Syas is around to indicate if there are other constitutional amendments. But I think we should maybe set a priority at some point, perhaps on Select File, on which ones are the most important and limit it so that people will vote only on two or three each time. Rather than being faced with eight or nine constitutional amendments. I just raise that for consideration of the body.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support this constitutional amendment. The people of Nebraska have created a full-time Lieutenant Governor in the executive branch. I think this is an excellent opportunity for improvement in the administration of the state affairs of Nebraska. I certainly see no reason the talent, particularly the talent we have in the Lieutenant Governors seat at this time, should be wasted in presiding over the Legislature. That talent should be used, by the people of Nebraska, to administer the affairs of this government. Here is an opportunity to do just that. Now in that vein, I agree with Senator Fowlers' idea of putting a priority on these constitutional amendments. This one would be my priority number one. I have a lot of respect for Senator Luedtke's idea of doing away with final reading, but I have sincere doubts that if we put on a pay raise, kick our presiding officer out, do away with final reading, we're not gonna get any. I do believe that we should bracket these constitutional amendments along the way. And pick out a priority and then work for those amendments and bring the others along later.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch, are you ready to close argument by way of reply?

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members, there's no sense in pursuing the discussion further. It appears that virtually every member in this body is in favor of this constitutional amendment. I would move that constitutional amendment 119 be advanced to E & R with the amendment for further consideration.

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall LB 119, constitutional revision as amended, be advanced to E & R initial. Record your vote. Have you voted? Record.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 2 nays on motion to advance.